

ow of the great mountain to teach them that in this world man is not all, Jesus had asked the great question, "Whom say ye that I am." And there Peter had given the answer of the ages. There they spent some days, perhaps weeks. Jesus could not longer work even in his own beloved Galilee. Here he must stay until the time should come when his work would be finished on earth. And here it was that to the inner circle of his disciples was given a view of his glory to strengthen their faith in dark days soon to come.

Lesson Story

About eight days later than the time on which Jesus had told the disciples that he must suffer and die on the cross and the third day be raised again, he took the three leaders of the disciples and went up into a mountain,—Mt. Hermon, most likely to pray.

Prayer.

On almost every occasion Jesus prayed. Especially was this true in these days when the tide which would sweep him to death was turning against him.

After the Feeding of the Five Thousand he seemed to need company, and the disciples needed the training. O, that Jesus would also teach his disciples today to pray. Prayer is the greatest need of the church today. Only to those who go with Jesus upon mountains of prayer is it given to see him in his glory.

A Face Illumined.

And as Jesus prayed, the fashion of his face was changed. The face of Christ must always have been a glorious and helpful sight, but now its glory became more glorious. Even his clothes were transfigured, shining with a glory that dazzled.

This supernatural event in the life of Jesus marvelous and mysterious is filled with suggestive lessons for us. Only by prayer can the faces of man be transfigured. It is as men pray that they receive a portion of the glory of God that makes their faces shine and their poor garment even glorious. "So let your light shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

The Heavenly Visitor.

But it was also as Jesus prayed that he was greeted by the heavenly visitors. They were Moses, the representative of the Law, and Elijah, the representative of Prophecy. They talked with Jesus,—about what? About his death which he should die at Jerusalem. That had been the subject of Christ's talk with the disciples a week before. Then Peter speaking for the others had rebuked Jesus. Now Moses and Elijah talked of the same thing. These men dead, as we say,—the one fifteen hundred years and the other over eight hundred, now spoke with Jesus and were in such form that they could be recognized, and yet some people try to make believe that when we die we remain in the grave until the Resurrection?

The Sleeping Disciples.

It seems that the disciples were given to sleep when Jesus was praying. On a later occasion they also slept, while he prayed and suffered. How sad that when Jesus takes us with him to pray, we sleep! But they did not see his glory, nor the two men with him until they were awake. Only as we awake with Jesus shall we see his glory. Only as we wake, do we behold the heavenly messengers of God, and hear their voices. Christ's disciples sleep today and wonder that they see no glory and hear not the voices of Moses and Elijah. To him who wakes and prays, not only the humility but also the glory of Christ is visible; by him only are Moses and Elijah seen and heard. To such a disciple nature is eloquent with messages from God, and history speaks with evident power of Christ. O, brother if there is no glory in your discipleship, wake up! Yours is the privilege of beholding "the glory of God in the face of Christ Jesus."

A Foolish Desire.

Peter, like most of us, perhaps, desired that this continue forever. Glory is well in its place, but Christianity is something other than forever standing on a mountain top looking upon dazzling glory. Peter said, "Let us make three tents, one for each of you and let us stay here." But even as he spoke a cloud passed over them, a voice from which said, "This is my chosen Son: hear ye him." They were afraid of the cloud, but it assured them. Fear not the clouds. When you are with Christ you always have a message from God.

Jesus Only.

The cloud passed. The heavenly messengers were gone. Jesus only was there. And no glory was his now, but the moral glory that forever shone on his blessed face.

But the influence of what they saw was not lost on the disciples. Ever afterward Jesus was a glorified person, and after the years had brought a better understanding they remembered it all and wrote of it for us. Jesus enjoined silence until his Resurrection had opened their eyes to all its significance. Jesus only! Moses may be glorious, Elijah majestic and the memories of men a source of joy, but Jesus alone remains to us. And from the Mount of Transfiguration he leads us down, down to a waiting world in need at its foot—

Lesson Applied

- 1 Are you a member of the Inner Circle of Christ's disciples?
- 2 Are you seeking Jesus? Perhaps you will find him on a mountain top of prayer.
- 3 Prayer transfigures. Try it.
- 4 Jesus faced death calmly. It was a part of his life's program.
- 5 Are you a sleeping disciple? To such no glory comes, only to those who wake.
- 6 To those who wake Moses and Elijah and Christ and Paul become real men.
- 7 Foolish disciples desire to enjoy the glory scenes forever. They forgot that "It is more blessed to give than to receive." They forgot the needy world at the foot of the mountain.

7 Some men fear the clouds that carry messages. Clouds not only have silver linings but also voices of cheer.

9 Jesus only! Best of all!

J. L. GILLIN.

Life Spiritual

Selected.

We have a very faint conception of the full import of the word "life." If the glorious light of the sun is but a shadow of God's glory, the life of man is but a shadow of the life of God. The life of a plant gives but a faint conception of the life of an animal; and that of a brute but a faint conception of the life of a man; and the life of a man as faint a conception of the life of God, and that life of God is the promise. What is that life? We can only speak of it with stammering tongues. None of the similes applied to life here illustrate life there; not a bubble, but substantial reality; not a drop, but an ocean always full; not grass, but a tree growing in the midst of the paradise of God; not a vapor, but a sun lighted up as the fountain of light. It is not mere existence, but existence full of blessedness; life without a pang; life full of enjoyment; an ocean of bliss, without a drop of bitterness; and forever it will be "life to come."

Bad weather is a sieve that sifts plucky Sunday-school scholars from cowardly ones.

You would feel slighted if your teacher paid little attention to you; give her your attention.

Educational

Advice to School Graduates

Philadelphia Ledger.

The youths who have bid farewell to school and college have, doubtless, high aspirations, but they can only realize them by going the right way about it. The country is strewn with the wrecks of ambitious men who preferred to begin with kid gloves instead of sooty hands. Even in the crowded professions there is always room at the top for the highly proficient, but the summit cannot be reached except by effort of unusual vigor. From the drone and the incompetent we often hear that they are unable to succeed because nobody helps them and they have no luck. As a matter of fact opportunities of more or less advantage come to everybody, but it rests with the individual himself to grasp them. If the way to succeed leads thru the car shops or along the stony levels and rough heights of the road man, he is too often disposed to ignore the best opportunity that he will ever have.

Life is real and earnest. It is not all roses and swan's down. The graduates of 1900 should bear this in mind. There is no shame in honest toil; the greatest rewards that the world can bestow are reaped by those who are sensible enough to start by the way of the car-shops or along the road of the rod or chain bearer and earn the kid gloves that they can wear with pride when they have shown themselves entitled to wear them.

The Model Worker

Selected.

Moncure D. Conway, the noted and cultured Unitarian of London, and, by the way, a graduate of Dickinson College, Carlisle, had been listening to the great Spurgeon, and it put him in a frame of mind which caused him to say: "I have listened to Mr. Spurgeon, and borne away an impression that strong